

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

DPW-01 IO-10 CU-04 ACDA-10 USSS-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02

SCA-01 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01 FBOE-00 PC-05 SCSE-00

(ISO) W

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R 201101Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4443

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 9171

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, US

SUBJ: KHUKRIT ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM THAI BASES

PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 20.
FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS ON THE
TIMETABLE FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM THAI BASES.
BEGIN TEXT:

REPORTER: THE STUDENTS CENTER AND THE ANTI DICTATORSHIP CENTER SAY
THAT THIS IS THE FIRST STEP, THAT THE NEXT STEP WILL BE FOR BASES
TO BE WITHDRAWN AT ONCE, MOST PROBABLY MORE SPEEDILY THAN THE
TIME LIMIT FIXED BY YOU. WILL THE TIME LIMIT FIXED BE TAKEN
UP FOR REVIEW? AND MOVES WILL BE MADE ON JULY 4. (STUDENTS DEMON-
STRATING IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY MAY 19 CALLED FOR RENEWED
DEMONSTRATION JULY 4 TO EXPEL U.S. TROOPS.)

KHUKRIT: I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING OF THE MATTER OR OF ANY MOVES
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PLANNED. WHEN I FIXED ONE YEAR AS THE TIME LIMIT, I DIDN'T THINK

OF THE FACILITY OR CONVENIENCE OF AMERICAN BUT IT CONCERNS THE FACILITY OR CONVENIENCE OF THE THAI SIDE, BECAUSE THESE BASES ARE NOT SOMETHING SMALL AT ALL, THEREFORE WE WILL HAVE TO BE FULLY PREPARED TO TAKE THEM OVER. REDUCING THE TIME LIMIT WOULD NOT BE PLACING A CONDITION ON AMERICAN BUT IT WOULD BE PUTTING A CONDITION ON THAILAND ITSELF. ALL IT (U.S.) WOULD HAVE TO DO WOULD BE TO PACK ITS BELONGINGS IN BAGS, THEN IT COULD GO AWAY. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SITES, THE INSTALLATIONS, THE PROPERTY, ETC., ETC., WHICH ARE A HUGE AMOUNT AND WHICH BELONG TO THAILAND? WHEN WE TAKE THEM OVER, WE MUST HAVE PERSONS FULLY READY TO BE IN CHARGE OF THEM. AN EXAMPLE THAT CAN BE CITED IS THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICA FROM UBON, WHERE WE HAVE ONLY JUST COMPLETED PREPARATIONS TO TAKE OVER EVERYTHING THERE. WITHDRAWALS COULD BE SPEEDED UP, BUT ON OUR SIDE WE WOULD HAVE TO SPEED UP OUR PREPARATIONS ALSO. THAT WOULD CAUSE MUCH GREATER TROUBLE TO US. THIS IS WHAT I HAVE TO CONSIDER. IT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FIXING OF A TIME LIMIT IS FOR THEIR CONVENIENCE, OR THAT WE ARE NOT INVOLVED. WE ARE INVOLVED TO A MUCH GREATER EXTENT THAN AMERICA. WHEN ANY PERSON GOES AWAY HE HAS NOTHING TO WORRY OVER. IT IS THE PERSONS WHO REMAIN WHO ARE FACED WITH DIFFICULTIES AND WHO HAVE TO WORRY. (LAUGHS)

REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT THE PROBLEM FACED IN REGARD TO FINDING OTHER WORK FOR THAIS?

KHUKRIT: DO YOU SEE AND UNDERSTAND PROBLEMS FACED? EVERYTHING MUST INVOLVE THE GOVERNMENT, AND IT MUST ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVERYTHING IN THE END.

REPORTER: WILL THE UNITED STATES BE FACED WITH ANY PROBLEMS?

KHUKRIT: IT WILL MOST PROBABLY NOT BE FACED WITH ANY PROBLEMS. BUT WE WILL. WE MUST ENDEAVOR TO FIND WORK FOR OUR PEOPLE WHO WILL BE OUT OF WORK. AND THEY ARE NOT A SMALL NUMBER.

REPORTER: WILL WE HAVE TO FIND PERSONS TO BE STATIONED IN VARIOUS BASES, OR TO GUARD THEM?

KHUKRIT: THERE MUST BE PERSONS IN CHARGE OF BUILDINGS, ETC., OTHERWISE EVERYTHING IN THEM WILL VANISH IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE,
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AS WE HAVE EXPERIENCED ALREADY IN TAKHLI. I WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME, BUT SO FAR AS I CAN REMEMBER EVERYTHING, INCLUDING AIR CONDITIONERS AND ALL KINDS OF EQUIPMENT VANISHED COMPLETELY AND NO TRACE COULD BE FOUND OF THEM. WHEN AMERICA PULLED OUT FROM THAT BASE, NOBODY KNOWS WHO WENT INTO IT AND REMOVED EVERYTHING THAT COULD BE TAKEN AWAY.

REPORTER: BUT IN THIS CASE, WILL THE GOVERNMENT PLACE THE WISHES

OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE PEOPLE ABOVE ALL ELSE?

KHUKRIT: OF COURSE. WE MUST LISTEN TO ALL VIEWS AND ON ALL SUBJECTS.
WE MUST REVIEW EVERYTHING, REGARDLESS ON WHAT SUBJECT.
WHITEHOUSE

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